

2006 Iowa Culture and Language Conference

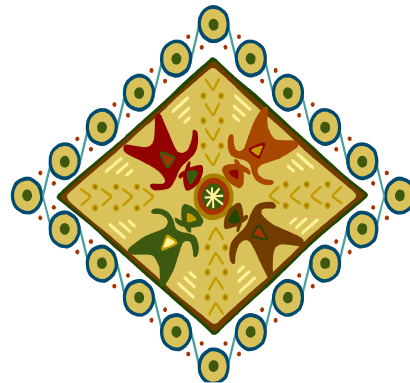
February 15 and 16, 2006

Pre-Conferences: February 14, 2006

New Location: Polk County Convention Complex, 501 Grand Avenue, Downtown Des Moines

A 20 year tradition...

Opening Doors to a Global Community



Conference Strands:

K-12
Elementary
Secondary
General Interest

Tutors and Parents
Refugee and Newcomers
Folklife
Administration and Assessment

Migrant
Adult, Higher Education and
Community College

Sponsored by:

Iowa Department of Education
Western Hills Area Education Agency 12
Southern Prairie Area Education Agency 15
Iowa Arts Council
Midwest Equity Assistance Center
MIDTESOL
Adult Education
Des Moines Marriot

Mission: The mission of the Iowa Culture and Language Conference (ICLC) is to advocate for culturally and/or linguistically diverse students and their families, educators, and service providers.

February 14, 2006: Pre-Conference Information

Pre-Conference 1: Molly House

The Bottom Line is... They Gotta be Reading

2:00-5:00 p.m.: ROOM 139

When facing a classroom of students that are emerging speakers and readers, the classroom teacher may find addressing the needs of so many different learners overwhelming. As educators, we can use “best practices” research and strategies to establish a caring, risk-free environment that allows all students to become active learners. Strategies shared will encompass what every teacher should do to help develop effective learners and readers. Presentation will include vocabulary, fluency, and a modeling of the nonfiction read aloud.



Pre-Conference 2: Dr. Margo Gottlieb and Shelley Fairbairn

Assessing and Grading ELLs: Sound Solutions to Longstanding Challenges

4:00-7:00 p.m.: ROOM 141

This interactive workshop addresses practical issues related to three key areas: classroom assessment, performance assessment, and grading of English language learners (ELLs). The first segment will focus on the complex nature of assessment and the choices that teachers must make to implement sound assessment practices. Next, we will discuss performance assessment with an emphasis on rubric development and use. Finally, the topic of grading will be examined, with a focus on designing grading and reporting systems that reflect the accomplishments of ELLs. Participants will have opportunities to reflect on their own practice and plan for school-based implementation of ideas presented in the session.



Pre-Conference 3: African Panel

Educating African Refugees

3:00-5:00 p.m.: ROOM 143

This panel will share information on Iowa's newest group of refugees from Africa: the Liberians. We have all read about the terror and social disruption that has occurred in that unfortunate country over the last fifteen years. Selected members of the Liberian Association of Iowa will talk about the different ethnic/language groups represented among the refugee population, family structure, attitudes toward education, a recent history of the country, and the reasons that many Liberians have been forced to leave their homes.

Pre-Conference Presenter Bios



Molly House

Molly House has been in education for 35 years with 29 years in the Des Moines Public Schools and six years at Heartland AEA. She is a reading and writing consultant. She enjoys reading, writing, getting her nails done, knitting, gardening, and being an empty nester. Her family grew last summer by three when she married Tim and gained two wonderful new adult children to add to her already wonderful two adult children. The last book she read professionally was *Spotlight* by Linda Hoyt. The last book she couldn't put down was *Bel Canto* by Anne Patchett.



Dr. Margo Gottlieb

Margo Gottlieb, Ph.D., is a specialist in the design of standards and assessments for English language learners in pre-K–12 settings. Beginning her career as an English as a second language (ESL) and bilingual teacher, Margo has been a consultant to governments, states, school districts, publishers, universities, and professional organizations. In 2004, Margo was a Fulbright Scholar, Senior Specialist in Chile, and evaluated a dual-language school in Italy. Presently, Margo is Director, Assessment and Evaluation, Illinois Resource Center, and Lead Developer for World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), a multi-state consortium. Active in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), she chairs the committee on revising the national pre-K–12 ESL standards and has held numerous leadership positions. She is a contributing author to a comprehensive K–5 ESL program and her most recent publication is *Assessing English Language Learners: Bridges from Language Proficiency to Academic Achievement* (2006).



Shelley Fairbairn



Shelley Fairbairn is a 4th-year Ph.D. student in the Foreign Language and ESL Education program at The University of Iowa. Her EFL/ESL teaching experience includes four years of teaching, materials development, and teacher education in Southeast Asia; seven years of teaching in K-12 schools in central Iowa; and a number of years of part-time teaching in Drake University's Intensive English Program. While working to complete her dissertation focusing on portfolio assessment of ELLs, she is serving as an adjunct professor in William Penn University's Project TEACH/IMPACT program, a professional development consultant for the WIDA Consortium, and a member of several committees addressing issues related

to the education of ELLs



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Keynoters and Featured Presenters

Concha Delgado



Dr. Concha Delgado-Gaitan is an award winning ethnographic researcher and scholar of oral and written traditions in immigrant communities. She relates her work with families, communities, and schools in many publications, among them her books: *Equity Through Culturally Responsive Classrooms*; *Involving Latino Families in the Schools*; *The Power of Community*; *Literacy for Empowerment*; *Protean Literacy*; *Crossing Cultural Borders*, and *School and Society*. To her scholarly work, Dr. Delgado-Gaitan brings a broad experience as an elementary school teacher, principal, ethnographic researcher and a professor of Anthropology & Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and University of California, Davis. She is currently a writer in the San Francisco Bay Area.

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING To know the impact of parents in their children's schooling, we want to see the bigger picture of how parents support their children's learning in explicit and tacit ways. Families from culturally diverse groups may find it difficult to participate in the mainstream culture. Yet, some schools and communities have made great strides in building connectedness. One of those communities is the focus of this talk. Turning vulnerabilities into strengths, the parent leadership and educators in Carpinteria reached out to every school in their district. Through hard, slow, deliberate, and on-going action, parents and educators discovered that their power resided with and within them. And their power base grew one school at a time--actualizing the power of the culture and the culture of power.



Dr. Margo Gottlieb *(Sponsored by Rigby)*

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SEEING DOUBLE: INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

As educators of English language learners, we are faced with dualities of differing constructs, standards, and demands for accountability. How can we differentiate English language proficiency from academic achievement? What are the implications for classrooms, school districts, and states? We will explore the issues that surround these challenges from the vantage point of instruction and assessment.



Dr. Stephen Krashen



Dr. Stephen Krashen is Professor Emeritus of Learning and Instruction, at the University of Southern California. He is an expert in the field of linguistics, specializing in theories of language acquisition and development. Much of his research has involved the study of non-English and bilingual language acquisition. Recently Dr. Krashen's research has focused on reading and its effects on language acquisition and academic success. In the late 1970s, Stephen Krashen began promoting the "natural approach" to language teaching, which he laid out in a landmark text he co-wrote with Tracy Terrell. His ideas about the difference between learning and acquisition have strongly influenced the field of ESL/EFL for several decades. He has published hundreds of books and articles and has been invited to deliver over 500 lectures at universities throughout the United States and the rest of the world. In the past five years,

Stephen Krashen has fought to save whole language and bilingual education in the United States and, more recently, has been lobbying for "recreational reading" and better stocked school libraries because of research relating both to higher achievement.

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION: SOME FUNDAMENTALS

Dr. Krashen will discuss basic theory including acquisition vs. learning, monitor hypothesis, comprehension hypothesis and mystical facts about language acquisition. He will also address what helps language acquisition and the role of the affective filter. The role of the classroom and the role of grammar will also be addressed. Dr. Krashen will share research and discuss TPR(S) and the Natural Approach to language.

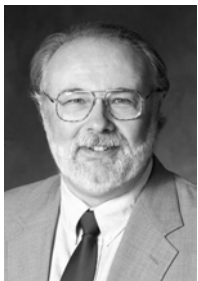


Former Governor Robert D. Ray

Robert D. Ray, a respected, prominent and successful Iowa trial lawyer, political, business and civic leader, has *made a lasting difference in the lives of Iowans*. At the turn of the century he was named the "*Most Influential Iowan*." Best known for the 14 years (1969-1983) that he served as governor, Robert D. Ray led by example and shaped the public's perception of what a governor should be. He takes pride in being remembered for his *ability to raise the level of appreciation for the state of Iowa*. Ray has lived his whole life in Iowa, most of it in his hometown of Des Moines. In the late 1970's Ray took a leader's role worldwide in the re-settlement of refugees fleeing Cambodia and Thailand. In 1979, 3500 refugees, mostly Tai Dam refugees, called Iowa home. Iowa became a leader in taking refugees from Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. Bob Ray took a courageous stand in doing what he knew was right – helping people relocate, find jobs and start new lives in Iowa. Currently a Robert D. Ray Asian garden is being planned as part of a river walk project on the east side of Des Moines. It will honor Ray's efforts for welcoming thousands of Vietnamese refugees to Iowa. A street that runs near the planned Asian garden has been named the "Robert D. Ray Drive". Robert D. Ray has lived a life filled with great opportunities that he made the most of. Working together with people and always giving back to others, he has touched the hearts of people and changed lives – always doing what he thought was the right thing to do! To many Iowans he is still known as "Governor".



Tim Rasinski



Timothy Rasinski is a professor of literacy education at Kent State University. He is director of Kent State's Reading Clinic which recently won the Ohio's Best Award for its effectiveness and innovations in working with students who struggle in reading. He has written over 150 articles and has authored, co-authored or edited 15 books on reading education. His scholarly interests include reading fluency and word study, reading in the elementary and middle grades, and readers who struggle. His research on reading has been cited by the National Reading Panel and has been published in journals such as *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Reading Psychology*, and the *Journal of Educational Research*. Tim recently served a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the

International Reading Association and from 1992 to 1999 he was co-editor of *The Reading Teacher*, the world's most widely read journal of literacy education. He currently serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Literacy Research*



Registration Presentation



The Young Tai Dancers debuted at the 2001 Tai Dam New Year Celebration. Awarded three Iowa Arts Council Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants, the group has been featured in a number of Tai Dam and community festivals around the state. They were most recently featured performers at the Southeast Asian community's Thanksgiving and 30th Anniversary in Iowa. Trained by Vilay Nguyen, who danced as a child in Laos, the children range in age from five to fourteen. Vilay teaches them a variety of steps from the dances she grew up with, though she uses more modern music to accommodate the children's

interests and the changes in Tai Dam culture in the US. The dancers' traditional outfits are custom fitted, designed, and sewn by a local Tai Dam seamstress.

The Tai Dam people come originally from the northwest part of North Vietnam. Families of Tai Dam government and military officials were evacuated from their homeland in northwest North Vietnam in 1952.

This was the start of a 20-year journey through refugee camps in South Vietnam, Laos, or Thailand before the Tai Dam fled to Europe, Australia, and Iowa. Former Governor Robert Ray was behind a state initiative to accept this ethnic refugee group from the Vietnam War. The first group of Tai Dam arrived in Des Moines in October 1975. Ninety-five percent of Tai Dam in the United States live in Iowa, and approximately 3,000 of the 4,000 Tai Dam in Iowa live in Des Moines.

Reception Presentation

Meredith Middle School Reader's Theater

FACES OF FREEDOM

"Faces of Freedom" by Cynthia Mercati of the Iowa Touring Theatre Company is a readers' theatre script that details the stories of immigrants as seen through the eyes of young adults. The script is based on interviews with Des Moines Public School English Language Learners and the story of Ms. Mercati's own grandmother. The group of students performing today is from the 8th grade ELL class from Meredith Middle School. During the 25 minute performance we hear the story of Maria, who emigrated from Italy and came to Iowa by way of Ellis Island. We also meet Tron, who arrived with the wave of Vietnamese boat people who immigrated after the war. There's Semir from Bosnia, who is balancing two different worlds, along with brother and sister Luis and Elena, who are caught between family tradition and "fitting in." Through these and other stories, the audience gains an appreciation for the complicated reasons that people decide to leave their homelands and the vast set of problems that all immigrants face when they reach our shores. "Faces of Freedom" was created to promote an artistic response to the September 11 attacks.

"Faces of Freedom" Cast List

Maria (Italy)	Zejna Mekanik
Tron (Vietnam)	Mohamed Abdullah
Tron's Father	Kadir Memisevic
Samir (Bosnia)	Elvir Klempic
Elena/Luis's mother,	Dennisa Dzafic
Masood's mother	
Kaleel (Liberia)	Al Hassan Darboh
Ellis Island Official	Arton Rrukaj
Masood (Afghanistan)	Rabi Ashrafi
Luis (Mexico)	Juan Reyes
Elena (Mexico)	Aida Hadzic
Props/Stage	Jorge Adame

***Directed by Kathy Potts,
Meredith ESL Teacher***

***Assisted by, Zlatko Beganovic,
ESL tutor***

Joan Looker, RAICIS trainer



Banquet Presentation



Orquesta de Jazz y Salsa Alto Maiz is something of a musical enigma. It is a popular eleven-piece Latin-jazz-dance band made up of musicians now living in the “heartland” of America. They will bring their unique sound to this year’s ICLC and educate us about the origins of their music. We will also learn about the power of using music with English language learners.

The Latin tinged music they perform, usually found in the clubs of New York City, L.A., or Miami has secured them a reputation as one of the hottest bands in the Midwest. This strange mix of “salsa” and tall corn works because of the years of musical experience the band members bring to the group, and because of their love for the music. Alto Maiz has been performing

regionally and internationally since 1986 and have steadily built a strong base of Latin music fans and supporters wherever they’ve played.

Orquesta Alto Maiz plays a wide range of Latin musical styles including meringue, samba, cha-cha-cha, salsa, calypso, and boleros. In addition to Latin-jazz standards by Tito Puente, Ray Barretto, Eddie Palmieri, Ismael Miranda, Mario Bauza, Poncho Sanchez, and others, the band has produced many successful original compositions as well. Alto Maiz has recorded much of this music, producing two cassette tapes: *Puerto de Tierra* (1989) and *Casa del Fuego* (1991), and five compact discs: *Dancing in the Corn* (1993), *Azucar Caliente* (1995), *Decada* (1997), *Live at Montreux* (1999), *Anejando* (2001), and their latest, *Ritmo en Azul*.

Regardless of age group or musical preferences, Orquesta Alto Maiz strikes a common chord with its audience. Once exposed to this vibrant, pulsating music, people find it so irresistible their feet won’t keep still! Audience participation (dancing and singing) is encouraged. And remember, dancing is good for you, and dancing like no one is watching is even better. Once you experience them you will never forget them – Orquesta Alto Maiz – “The Salsa Band.”

